

AMALGAM



DOCTOR STRANGE FATE

#1
APRIL

\$1.95 US
\$2.75 CAN



RON
MARZ
JOSE LUIS
GARCIA-
LOPEZ
KEVIN
NOWLAN

DIRECT SALES



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7 61941 20711 7 A

HE'S OUT
THERE...

...SOMEWHERE...

I HAVE
TO STOP
HIM.

...NOT TRULY
UNDERSTANDING
WHAT HE IS, BUT
CARRYING THE
KEYS TO THE
DESTRUCTION OF
EVERYTHING THAT
EXISTS.

==HFF==

==HFF==

==HFF==

CUN-
CAN'T...
STOP...

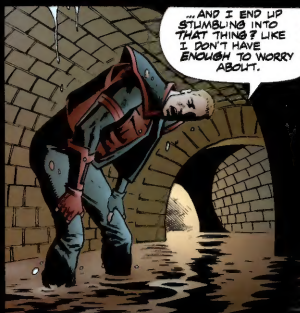


... JUST
KEEP ...

... MOVING ?
WHERE'D IT
GO ?

OH,
MAN...

... DON'T KNOW
WHERE I AM,
WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO
DO ...



... AND I END UP
STUMBLING INTO
THAT THING ? LIKE
I DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH TO WORRY
ABOUT.



AT LEAST
IT'S GONE. I
CAN GET BACK
TO FIGURING
OUT HOW
I'M--

ABOMINITE
CAUGHT
YOU!

~HUH?!

SWASH





COME.



I AM
PREPARED.

THE DECREES OF FATE

RON MARZ-SCRIPT
JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ PENCILS
KEVIN NOWLAN-INKS
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH-COLORS & SEPARATIONS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS-LETTERS
DAN THORSLAND-EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO
MICHAEL HAGEN



SUMMON
THEM, MYX.
ALL THREE
OF THEM.

AS
DOCTOR
STRANGE
COMMANDS...

SO
SHALL IT
BE DONE.







ATTEND.

THIS IS THE
OBJECT OF YOUR
SEARCH.

HE IS CALLED
ACCESS. HE IS AN
OUTSIDER, A WILD
CARD, AND HE IS NEAR,
SOMEWHERE IN NEW
GOTHAM CITY.

THE FULL EXTENT
OR NATURE OF HIS
POWERS IS UNCERTAIN,
YET I CAN TELL YOU HE
WIELDS MIGHT ON A
UNIVERSAL SCALE. HE
REPRESENTS A GREATER
DANGER THAN ANY
PREVIOUS FOE...

...MEPHISATANUS
AND BARON NOTAN
INCLUDED.

YOU'VE BEEN
TOLD WHAT'S
NECESSARY. THE
REST IS MY
CONCERN, NOT
YOURS.

COME ON, THIS
ONE GUY IS
THAT BIG A THREAT?
WHAT ARE WE
REALLY TALKING
ABOUT HERE?



HE LOOKS
LIKE SUCH A
SWEET BOY.

WHAT ARE
YOU INTENDING?
IMPRISON HIM
BELOW IN
ARKHAM?

I'M AFRAID
A CONSIDERABLY
MORE SEVERE
SOLUTION IS
WARRANTED.

THESE ARE NOT
IDLE WARNINGS.
ACCESS THREATENS
THE VERY FABRIC
OF OUR REALITY.



BE SERIOUS.
THAT KID LOOKS
ABOUT AS THREATEN-
ING AS SANTA
CLAUS.

LIKE I SAID, YOU WANT
HIM TAKEN OUT, I CAN FLY
SOLO ON IT. NO PROBLEM.

HIS
DESTRUCTION
IS NOT YOUR
MISSION.



I WANT
HIM FOUND AND
BROUGHT TO ME.
NOTHING MORE.

IF YOU CAN'T
GRASP THAT,
ANOTHER AGENT
CAN BE SUMMONED
TO REPLACE YOU.
THE ARCANÉ WOMAN,
PERHAPS.



UNDERSTOOD?

YUP... SURE
THING. JUST
BRING HIM
BACK HERE.

GOT IT.



I'VE ENTRUSTED
THIS MATTER TO YOU
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE
MOST RELIABLE OF
MY AGENTS. YOU'VE
NOT FAILED ME IN
THE PAST.

DON'T
DO SO
NOW.



DISPERSE
THEM, MYX.

DON'T WORRY,
DOC...

YES,
MASTER.



...WE'LL
GET YOUR
MAN.



MASTER?
IF I MIGHT?

SPEAK.

I ASK WHY
YOU DO NOT
SEEK THIS MAN
YOURSELF. IF THE
THREAT HE REPRESENTS
IS SO DIRE, WHY
DO YOU EMPLOY
YOUR AGENTS?



THE AGENTS
ARE PAWNS.

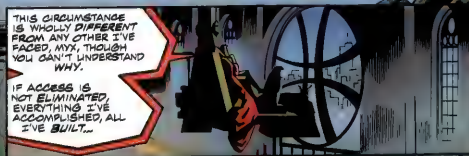
THEY SERVE TO
PROBE, TO DETERMINE
STRENGTHS AND WEAK-
NESSES. I WILL KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT
FROM MY OPPONENT
BEFORE I ENGAGE
HIM.

AND THEN
I WILL DEAL
WITH THIS
ACCESS
PERSONALLY.

AH.

YOU SIT
ON HIGH AND
ORCHESTRATE. AS
ALWAYS, YOU GAIN
YOUR ENDS THROUGH
MANIPULATION.

I SUPPOSE
MY SERVITUDE IN THIS
DIMENSION IS PROOF
ENOUGH OF THAT.



THIS CIRCUMSTANCE
IS WHOLLY DIFFERENT
FROM ANY OTHER I'VE
FACED, MYX, THOUGH
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHY.

IF ACCESS IS
NOT ELIMINATED,
EVERYTHING I'VE
ACCOMPLISHED, ALL
I'VE BUILT...

"...DOWN IN
A SEWER..."



... ABOUT
TO GET MY
HEAD PULPED
BY...

... WELL,
WHATEVER
THAT THING
WAS...

... THEN I'M
UP ON A
ROOFTOP.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



THIS
IS TOO
MUCH.

COSMIC BEINGS,
COMBINED UNIVERSES.
AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE THE ONE
WHO'S--



KID...
... YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE LOST.

NO... I, UH,
I'M FINE, THANKS.
I WAS JUST
GOING.



IT'S OKAY.
I CAN SEE
YOU'RE ALONE
IN THE WORLD.

I KNOW
WHAT THAT'S
LIKE, TO BE AN
OUTCAST, TO
BE HUNTED,
HERE...



... LET ME
HELP.



LOOK, I
DON'T NEED
ANY HELP.
WHAT I NEED
IS TO BE
LEFT--

WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST COME
WITH ME?



STAY
AWAY
FROM
ME!

IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN...
...IT WOULD'VE
BEEN SO MUCH
EASIER.

I WANTED
TO THINK...

...THAT IT
WOULDN'T
COME TO
THIS...

...BUT IT
ALWAYS
DOES...

...ALWAYS...

COME
HERE!

OH,
JEEZ...

THOW
OUT



...I AM
NEVER
STEPPING INTO
ANOTHER
ALLEY IN MY
LIFE.



HI THERE,
HANDSOME.
WHAT'S THE
HURRY?

HUH?
WHERE'D
YOU--



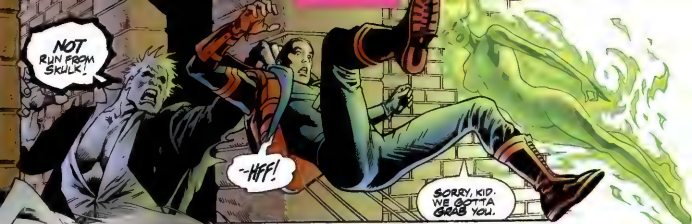
YOU OUGHT
TO SLOW DOWN
A LITTLE...



...PEOPLE'LL
THINK YOU'RE
HEADED FOR
A FIRE.

FWASH

GAH--



NOT
RUN FROM
SKULK!

-HFF!

SORRY, KID.
WE GOTTA
GRAB YOU.



SKULK
SMASH!



CAREFUL,
BIG GUY.
THE BOSS
WANTS HIM
IN ONE
PIECE.

LET'S WRAP
HIM UP, NOT
BREAK HIM.

NO!

I WON'T
BE...



...TAKEN...



NOT
GOOD?

NOPE,
NOT
GOOD.
NOT AT
ALL.







...AH!



I AM DOCTOR STRANGE-FATE.

I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THIS UNIVERSE.



WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ARE YOU?!



UH...

...THIS UNIVERSE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
THIS UNIVERSE?

DON'T INSULT ME. THIS WILL BE MUCH EASIER IF WE'RE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND WHENCE YOU CAME.

YOU'VE TAKEN THE NAME ACCESS. YOU ARE THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE TWO UNIVERSES THAT CAME BEFORE, THE UNIVERSES FROM WHICH THIS ONE WAS CONSTRUCTED, AND WITHIN YOU...

...YOU HOLD THE KEYS TO RESTORING THOSE UNIVERSES, THEREBY DESTROYING MY OWN. ALL THIS IS KNOWN TO ME, AND ME ALONE.

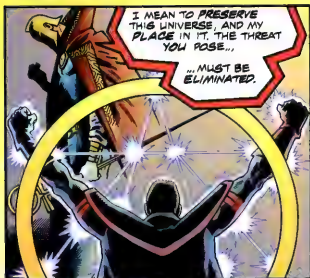
HOW... CAN YOU KNOW?

I AM THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITY IN THIS UNIVERSE. EVEN BEFORE NABU THE ANCIENT ONE INSTRUCTED ME IN THE SOBERGUS ARTS AND GRANTED ME THIS HELM...

...I WIELD CONSIDERABLE PSYCHIC ABILITIES. YOUR MIND IS AN OPEN BOOK TO ME, AND IT IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER THAT EXISTS IN THIS REALITY.

YOU DO NOT BELONG.





I MEAN TO PRESERVE
THIS UNIVERSE, AND MY
PLACE IN IT. THE THREAT
YOU POSE...

...MUST BE
ELIMINATED.



NO!

NONE OF THIS
IS SUPPOSED TO
EXIST! NOT LIKE
THIS!

STRUGGLE
WILL GAIN
YOU NOTHING.
NOT IN MY
SANCTUM.

I AM MASTER
HERE. EVEN YOUR
CONVENIENT TRANS-
PORTATIONAL EFFECT
WILL NOT FUNCTION WITHIN
THE WALLS OF MY TOWER.



UNDERSTAND...



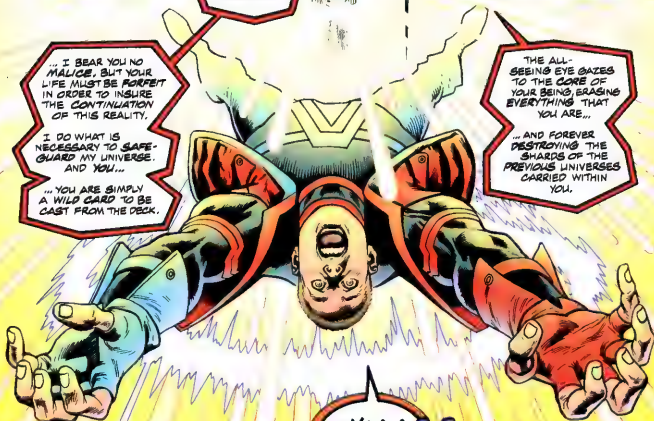
... I BEAR YOU NO
MALICE, BUT YOUR
LIFE MUST BE PERFECT
IN ORDER TO INSURE
THE CONTINUATION
OF THIS REALITY.

I DO WHAT IS
NECESSARY TO SAFE-
GUARD MY UNIVERSE.
AND YOU...

... YOU ARE SIMPLY
A WILD CARD TO BE
CAST FROM THE DECK.

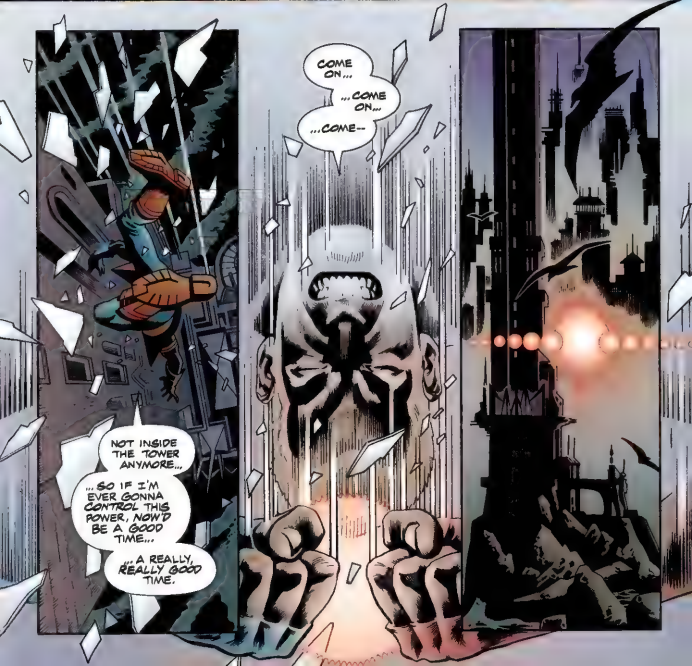
THE ALL-
SEEING EYE GAZES
TO THE CORE OF
YOUR BEING, ERASING
EVERYTHING THAT
YOU ARE...

... AND FOREVER
DESTROYING THE
SHARDS OF THE
PREVIOUS UNIVERSES
CARRIED WITHIN
YOU.



EEYAAAAAH!





COME ON...

...COME ON...

...COME...

NOT INSIDE THE TOWER ANYMORE...

...SO IF I'M EVER GONNA CONTROL THIS POWER, NOW'D BE A GOOD TIME...

...A REALLY, REALLY GOOD TIME.



EVERYTHING I MEANT TO ACCOMPLISH BY BECOMING STRANGEFATE. THE BETTER WORLD I WOULD CREATE.

ALL GONE.

I FAILED.

I BELIEVED MYSELF THE PROTECTOR OF THIS UNIVERSE. I VOWED TO PRESERVE IT.

AND I FAILED.



I WASN'T THIS UNIVERSE'S SAVIOR. ULTIMATELY I'M NOTHING MORE THAN THE MAN UNDER THE MASK...

...CHARLES XAVIER.



IT'S OVER.

NEXT: THE END ...OR THE BEGINNING?

Welcome to the Sanctum, Faithful Ones.

After over a decade in the pages of **TALES OF STRANGE-FATE**, your fervent wishes and dreams have been answered with an all-new mag starring the Mage Supreme: Doctor Strange! With Ron Marz, José Luis García-López, and Kevin Nowlan continuing the daunting task of the cartography of Doc's ongoing adventures, you longtime fans should be happier than ever! And to any newcomers out there who have started reading with this stellar premiere issue—Where ya been?

To kick everything off, let's see what you have to say on the last issue of **TALES**:

What's up Doc?

Bigger and badder than ever! With a hot babe like Jade Nova in his debt, how can anyone stop him? Doctor Strange-fate has always been one of my favorite characters in the Amalgam Universe, and **TALES OF STRANGE-FATE** #213 was just another example of how cool the Doc can be—his struggle to save Frankie Rayner's soul from the dread Mephistanus, the way he hid the price he paid from Myx and Frankie, and the fears for the coming "inevitable changes." I wonder: is his fear of the future a hint at another secret crisis? Big stuff, and with this character, the bigger the better!

Keep it up and the new book will be a bigger hit than the much anticipated **JLX**! Speaking of the new monthly, any idea who the creative team will be? My vote's in for Marz, García-López and Nowlan—they've done miracles with Strange-fate, and a monthly without their talents would be a shame. Don't disappoint me, okay?

Ed Lawson
Greenwich, CT

Dear Ron, Jose & Kevin:

Awsome! I just sat down and read **TALES OF STRANGE-FATE** #210-213 in one sitting and couldn't believe what I read! Knowing that "Jade Inferno" would be an epic, I waited for the whole storyline to come out before I sat down and read it (the anticipation nearly killed me). It was worth the wait! I always thought Frankie Rayner was a lousy successor to the power of the green flame, but she really earned the right in "Inferno," even if she needed the help of a certain enigmatic demigod. A few suggestions:

THE STRANGE-FATE LETTERS

1) Can we see a little more of the Skulk? I've always liked tragic heroes, and he's about as tragic as you can get!

2) Three words: Doctor Strange-fate vs. The Hyena—Doc'll kick his butt!

3) More White Witch! Lots more!

4) A Myx one-shot! It could be about Myx trying to dry clean the Cloak of Levitation.

Before I go, one question: Since the Tower of Strange-fate is built atop Arkham, does that mean the Doctor counsels some of the inmates?

Clea Stevens
Austin, TX

From the top:

1) Sure.

2) Maybe, but I think the Doc's got bigger concerns right now!

3) See answer #1.

4) Very funny! I'm sure if Myx had any sense of humor he'd be laughing right now...

Dan, Ron, Jose & Kevin:

This is my first letter to a comic book, even though I've been a longtime reader of Amalgam Comics (all the way back to the Stan Schwartz era of Super-Soldier). What made me finally write?

Doctor Strange-fate has always been a character on the outskirts of the Amalgam Universe, and I've had kind of a love/hate relationship with him since way back when. I like heroes, and this guy is so unlike a classic hero it's hard to peg him. He seems to have the best of intentions but often does things so manipulative and underhanded to attain these ends, it's hard to just accept him as a good guy. Take for example his victory over Baron Wotan way back in **TALES OF STRANGE-FATE** #157—did he really have to do that to Bruce Banner to defeat the Baron? Sure, Doc may have been a founding member of the JLA—one of my favorite teams of all time—and saved the lives of millions in his time, but the way he uses people really bugs me sometimes. I won't stop reading the book, if only to get a monthly fix of Jose and Kevin's art, but I wish I could really like it.

What makes me write is the hope that with the new monthly **DOCTOR STRANGE-**

FATE book, you could make him more of a hero, get him to lighten up a bit maybe. He has the potential to be such a positive influence, and with all his power, doesn't really need to be such an utter creep. Why not release Bruce Banner from Skulk, and let Myx return home.

Does he really need their help? Just the amazing stash of talismans and stuff in the Tower of Strange-fate should be enough to defend Earth from all those threats from beyond, right? Think about it.

Lucas Hall
Cliffside Park, NJ

But would it be any fun?

Dan:

I'm a fairly new reader and love Doctor Strange-fate, but I have a few questions.

Who is Ancient Nabu? I know Xavier got his powers from him, and a lot of the cool occult gear, but who was he and why did he give the power to Strange-fate?

Does Doctor Strange-fate control Bruce Banner's transformation into the Skulk? I know that Skulk is one of his agents, but did he create him?

That's all for now. Keep up the good work!

Charles Conklin
Seattle, WA

Xavier was rescued by Ancient Nabu—then the Lord Supreme of Order—when Xavier was traveling through the Himalayas, and Nabu began schooling him in the mystic arts. Already a powerful mutant telepath, Xavier soon surpassed his teacher and took over as Lord.

As for Skulk, Doc has a spell that controls Banner's transformation, but isn't responsible for it. See **THE ABOMINABLE SKULK** #1 for details.

—The Abominable Dan

NEXT: With Access free, can Doctor Strange-fate prevent the end of the Amalgam Universe as we know it? And if you thought the Doc being wrong for the first time was shocking, wait until you meet his newest ally—Mephistanus! Shocking, shattering action by Ron Marz, José Luis García-López and Kevin Nowlan.

AMALGAM

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AMALGAM NATION

CARWALD'S CORNERBOX

Greetings, Amalgamaniacs! This is the month it happens—where the Amalgam Universe bursts wide open and we launch twelve (count'em-twelve) new titles featuring some of your favorite Amalgamated superstars in their own titles at last! This is a comic book counterrevolution and you, sensation-seekers, are getting in on ground zero!

We could heap on more hype, but instead we'd like to shift gears a moment and talk about something truly important in the cosmic scheme—namely, brotherhood. Friends, go out and make an effort to get along with someone whose ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, or comic book preference is unlike your own. After all, we're all passengers on the same planet going 'round, and when it gets down to it, everybody wants the same basic things out of life. So let's each do our part to make the ride go a bit smoother. Says ul!

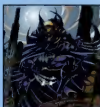
Now, with that off our chest, we want to remind you, the second wave of the Amalgam Era of Comics is now upon us! And it wouldn't be happening if you mighty Amalgamites didn't demand it. Accelerate!

— M.M. CARWALD



SPEED DEMON #1: Blaze Allen teams up with his nephew Wally in a race against time and Hell itself to snatch the soul of the Green Goblin. If they fail, the Night Spectre wins the keys to the nether-realm! By Howard Mackie, James Fielder, Salvador Larrocca, and Al Milgrom!

LEGEND OF THE DARKCLAW #1: The adamantium-clawed nocturnal protector of New Gotham is joined by Sparrow, his spunky protégé, in his war against the feral and psychotic Hymna! By Larry Hama, Jim Balent, and Ray McCarthy.



BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. #1: Driven by the murder of his parents, a grim multimillionaire focuses his rage by forging Amalgam's premier espionage strike force! Now Wayne and his agents have to save the East Coast from the depredations of the Green Skull! By Chuck Dixon and Cary Nord!



X-PATROL #1: Ferro-Man! Elasti-Girl! Dial H.U.S.K.! Miles Cable! Shatterstarfire! Beasting! Six outsiders unite for the first time to face the dreaded despot known as Doctor Doomday! By Karl Kessel, Barbara Kessel, Roger Cruz, and Jon Holdredge!

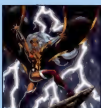
JLX #1: They're outlaws hated by the world they've sworn to protect—and hounded by the avenging heroes of the J.L.A. Even if they survive the awesome assault of Amalgam's mightiest heroes, they must still face the discovery that a member of their squad is not what he appears to be! By Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Howard Porter, and John Dell!



SPIDER-BOY #1: He's the world-famous web-slinging superstar, he can stick to walls, and his crash pad is the Baxter Building—not bad for a teenaged punk! Now two obstacles loom in the path of the amazing archid—Buzarnage and King Lizard! By Karl Kessel and Mike Wieringo!



BULLETS & BRACELETS #1: Years ago an unlikely romantic interlude between Trevor Castle and Diana of Themyscira produced a child. Now this punishing man and wonderful woman must unite once more to save their son from Thanosoid! By John Ostrander, Gary Frank, and Cam Smith!



AMAZON #1: Reared on the island of Themyscira, weather-wielding mutant Ororo Munroe battles the very gods of legend she has been taught to worship! By John Byrne and Terry Austin!



DOCTOR STRANGEFATE #1: Amalgam's Supreme Lord of Order, Doctor Strangefate, will do anything to preserve the Amalgam Universe—even kill the strange new hero Access! By Ron Marz, Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez, and Kevin Nowlan!



ASSASSINS #1: Dare and Catcat—two of Amalgam's deadliest femmes fatales—must negotiate the deathtraps of Arkham Tower to assassinate the mayor! By D.G. Chichester and Scott McDaniel!

MAGNETO & THE MAGNETIC MEN #1: Erik Magnus watched in horror as his comrades were slaughtered. Now utilizing the technology of his mutant-hating brother used to create the Sentinels, Magnus constructs five robots, each formed from a different metal, to protect his fellow Homo Superiors. Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Jeff Matsuda, and Art Thibert!



SUPER-SOLDIER #1: Transformed by an experimental infusion of alien DNA, a mere mortal became the greatest fighting machine of World War II. Revived in modern times, the living legend must battle the Green Skull and Hydra while defending truth, justice, and the American way. By Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons!

MINUTEMEN

SYL3NT Bob

